

CLAIMS

1. An information recording medium comprising:
a first area which records common information
which can be commonly played back by a plurality of
types of information playback apparatuses provided by
different manufacturers or distributors and complies
with common standards;

a second area which records specific information
which can be played back by only an information
playback apparatus of a specific type provided by
a specific manufacturer or distributor; and

a third area which records link information
indicating a link between the common information and
specific information.

2. A medium according to claim 1, wherein the
link information contains:

number information indicating the number of link
designation locations in the common information.

3. A medium according to claim 1, wherein the
link information contains:

at least one ID information of ID information
indicating a manufacturer of the information playback
apparatus of the specific type, and ID information
indicating a distributor of the information playback
apparatus of the specific type.

4. A medium according to claim 1, wherein the
link information contains:

at least one character code of a character code corresponding to ID information indicating a manufacturer of the information playback apparatus of the specific type, and a character code corresponding to ID information indicating a distributor of the information playback apparatus of the specific type.

5 5. A medium according to claim 1, wherein the link information contains:

10 update history information indicating an update state of the link information.

6. An information recording method of recording predetermined information on a predetermined information recording medium, comprising the steps of:

15 recording common information which can be commonly played back by a plurality of types of information playback apparatuses provided by different manufacturers or distributors and complies with common standards;

20 recording specific information which can be played back by only an information playback apparatus of a specific type provided by a specific manufacturer or distributor; and

 recording link information indicating a link between the common information and specific information.

25 7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the link information contains:

 number information indicating the number of link designation locations in the common information.

09934827.082301

8. A method according to claim 6, wherein the link information contains:

at least one ID information of ID information indicating a manufacturer of the information playback apparatus of the specific type, and ID information indicating a distributor of the information playback apparatus of the specific type.

9. A method according to claim 6, wherein the link information contains:

at least one character code of a character code corresponding to ID information indicating a manufacturer of the information playback apparatus of the specific type, and a character code corresponding to ID information indicating a distributor of the information playback apparatus of the specific type.

10. A method according to claim 6, wherein the link information contains update history information, and

said method further comprises the step of recording information indicating that the link information has been updated in the update history information, when the link information has been updated.

11. An information recording apparatus for recording predetermined information on a predetermined information recording medium, comprising:

recording means for recording common information which can be commonly played back by a plurality of

0934827.08201

types of information playback apparatuses provided by different manufacturers or distributors and complies with common standards, recording specific information which can be played back by only an information
5 playback apparatus of a specific type provided by a specific manufacturer or distributor, and recording link information indicating a link between the common information and specific information.

12. An apparatus according to claim 11, further
10 comprising means for recording the link information which contains number information indicating the number of link designation locations in the common information.

13. An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising means for recording the link information
15 which contains at least one ID information of ID information indicating a manufacturer of the information playback apparatus of the specific type, and ID information indicating a distributor of the information playback apparatus of the specific type.

20 14. An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising means for recording the link information which contains at least one character code of a character code corresponding to ID information indicating a manufacturer of the information playback
25 apparatus of the specific type, and a character code corresponding to ID information indicating a distributor of the information playback apparatus

0934627.002301

of the specific type.

15. An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising means for recording the link information which contains update history information, and
5 recording information indicating that the link information has been updated in the update history information, when the link information has been updated.

16. An information playback method applied to an information playback apparatus of a specific type,
10 which is provided by a specific manufacturer or distributor, and plays back an information recording medium,

the information recording medium comprising:

a first area which records common information
15 which can be commonly played back by a plurality of types of information playback apparatuses provided by different manufacturers or distributors and complies with common standards;

a second area which records specific information
20 which can be played back by only the information playback apparatus of the specific type provided by the specific manufacturer or distributor; and

a third area which records link information that indicates a link between the common information and
25 specific information, and contains at least one ID information of ID information indicating a manufacturer of the information playback apparatus of the specific

09934827.002301

type, and ID information indicating a distributor of the information playback apparatus of the specific type, the information playback apparatus of the specific type, comprising:

5 ID information storage means for storing at least one ID information of ID information indicating the manufacturer of the information playback apparatus of the specific type, and ID information indicating the distributor of the information playback apparatus of the specific type, and

said method comprising the step of:

10 comparing the ID information stored in said ID information storage means and the ID information contained in the link information played back from the information recording medium, and playing back the specific information on the condition that the two pieces of ID information match each other.

15 17. A method according to claim 16, wherein the link information recorded in the third area of the information recording medium contains:

20 at least one character code of a character code corresponding to ID information indicating the manufacturer of the information playback apparatus of the specific type, and a character code corresponding to ID information indicating the distributor of the information playback apparatus of the specific type,

25 the information playback apparatus of the specific

09534827-082301

type for playing back the information recording medium,
further comprises:

character code storage means for storing at least
one character code of a character code corresponding
to ID information indicating the manufacturer of the
information playback apparatus of the specific type,
and a character code corresponding to ID information
indicating the distributor of the information playback
apparatus of the specific type, and

said information playback method applied to the
information playback apparatus of the specific type for
playing back the information recording medium, further
comprises the step of:

comparing the character code stored in said
character code storage means with the character code
contained in the link information, comparing the ID
information stored in said ID information storage means
with ID information played back from the information
recording medium, when the two character codes match
each other, and playing back the specific information
when the two pieces of ID information match each other.

18. An information playback apparatus for playing
back an information recording medium,

the information recording medium comprising:

a first area which records common information
which can be commonly played back by a plurality of
types of information playback apparatuses provided by

different manufacturers or distributors and complies with common standards;

5 a second area which records specific information which can be played back by only an information playback apparatus of a specific type provided by the specific manufacturer or distributor; and

10 a third area which records link information that indicates a link between the common information and specific information, and contains at least one ID information of ID information indicating a manufacturer of the information playback apparatus of the specific type, and ID information indicating a distributor of the information playback apparatus of the specific type,

15 said information playback apparatus of the specific type, comprising:

20 ID information storage means for storing at least one ID information of ID information indicating a manufacturer of said information playback apparatus of the specific type, and ID information indicating a distributor of said information playback apparatus of the specific type; and

25 playback means for playing back the common information, specific information, and link information recorded in the first, second, and third areas of the information recording medium.

19. An apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising specific information playback means for

03934827-032304

5

10

15

20

25

specific information playback means for comparing

the character code stored in said character code storage means with the character code contained in the link information, comparing the ID information stored in said ID information storage means with ID

5 information played back from the information recording medium, when the two character codes match each other, and playing back the specific information when the two pieces of ID information match each other.